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PHILADELPIA MAN CHARGED WITH "DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH" IN FATAL OVERDOSE OF POTTSTOWN WOMAN



NORRISTOWN, Pa. – Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Pottstown Police Chief F. Richard Drumheller announce the arrest of Harold Robert Burton, 36, of West Ellet Street in Philadelphia on the criminal homicide charge of Drug Delivery Resulting in Death as well as other felonies and misdemeanors related to the January 29, 2016, overdose death of Renee Winslow of High Street in Pottstown.

The investigation by the Montgomery County Detective Bureau and Pottstown Police revealed that the night before Ms. Winslow was found dead in her apartment on the morning of January 29, she had sent and received drug-related text messages with her heroin supplier, who said he would deliver four bags of purported heroin to her residence. Video surveillance revealed that the defendant entered and exited the apartment. No other person entered the residence until Winslow's boyfriend, who found her dead of a fatal overdose and called police.

An autopsy by the Montgomery County Coroner's Office determined that the cause of Ms. Winslow's death was not heroin as suspected, but was an even deadlier drug, fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 40 to 50 times more deadly than street-level heroin. Testing on the drug baggies recovered from near Ms. Winslow's body found that they all contained fentanyl.

"Fentanyl is killing people," said Steele, "Addicts do not know that what they are injecting is the much more powerful fentanyl since it looks practically identical to heroin. But when it hits their system, the fentanyl shuts down their body, and they die. If we continue at this pace, we're going to have one of the deadliest years for overdose deaths. We have to get the word out about fentanyl. This stuff is deadly for addicts, could be deadly for law enforcement and deadly for their K-9 partners. This is poison."

Burton is charged with Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, which is a felony criminal homicide charge that could result in a sentence of up to 40 years—a similar penalty to third-degree murder. He is also facing two other felony charges: Manufacture, Delivery, or Possession of Controlled Substances and Criminal Use of Communications, as well as other misdemeanor drug charges.

"Renee Winslow's death was not attributable to a violent crime. This death is attributable to someone poisoning her, poisoning her with this very deadly drug fentanyl," said Steele. "Drug dealers beware—you give a drug to someone and they die, you are on the hook for Drug Delivery Resulting in Death."

Burton was arraigned yesterday before Magisterial District Judge Edward C. Kropp, Sr. Bail was set at \$1 million, and Burton was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing was set for July 6, 2016, before Judge Kropp.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kelly Lloyd.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.